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TO : All Division and Branch Chiefs,  
Economic Research  
THRU : Chief, Analysis Division *RVG*  
FROM : Chief, Far East Branch

DATE: 16 December 1958

SUBJECT: Supplemental Terms of Reference on Foreign Trade -- NIE 13-52

1. Attached are tables containing data on the value and volume of Communist China's commodity trade for 1956. These data, including documentation and methodology, have been compiled by S/TF/FE. It is hoped that, with a minimum of research time, each branch can assist in expanding these data into a fairly detailed commodity composition of Communist China's foreign trade for 1956, and perhaps for 1957 and 1958.
2. It is requested that, where applicable, (a) each branch check the 1956 data, changing the figures when necessary and filling in the existing gaps where possible; (b) for 1957 and 1958, estimates of each commodity and each country group listed are desired and, in the absence of quantitative estimates, significant changes should be noted, such as "large increase" or "a x percent increase"; and (c) important trade commodities which have not been listed and for which estimates can be made should be added.
3. Documentation and methodology, in very brief form, are requested for each commodity. When converting volume to value (or vice versa), list the unit of price used: Chinese domestic price, USSR (ruble) foreign trade price, U.S. price, etc.
4. All branch contributions are due to S/TF/FE by 26 January 1959. Information concerning the attached tables can be obtained from [redacted] extension 2749.

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